

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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SUNBURN ON BEACH VS INLAND

Undoubtedly the shore is the best place to acquire a coat of tan, while a vacation in the mountains or on the farm is less productive of sunburn. The boat and the beach afford no sheltering trees as sunshades; moreover, on bright summer days, clouds frequently form more quickly inland than along the coast, and over mountains most readily of all.

But even if the sunlight falls with equal intensity on the beach and on the garden, the beach is more conducive to sunburn. Dark colored soil absorbs sunlight, whereas white sand reflects a good measure, even up under the hat brim. Water is a still more dazzling reflector. Human behavior introduces another factor in favor of beach sunburn. Even the most ardent gardener does not lie all day at full length upon the ground when he is extracting weeds, and usually wears a costume more extensive than a one-piece bathing suit.

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